

Message Text

PAGE 01 BERLIN 00931 311604 Z

45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

NIC-01 ACDA-19 NEA-10 GAC-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03 SAJ-01

OMB-01 RSR-01 EB-11 STR-08 CIEP-02 COME-00 IO-13 CU-04

/165 W

----- 088685

R 311545 Z MAY 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1884

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERLIN 931

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENUM

1. SUMMARY: IN A LENGTHY, COMPREHENSIVE REPORT TO NINTH PLENUM OF SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE, MAY 28, HONECKER REITERATED IN RATHER SHARP FORM GDR FOREIGN POLICY POSITIONS, PARTICULARLY ON BERLIN AND FRG, CRITIQUED EAST GERMAN ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE, AND CALLED FOR INCREASED DILIGENCE AND ATTENTION TO " NEEDS OF SOCIALISM" IN CULTURAL AFFAIRS. SPEECHES BY OTHER CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS, MAY 29, LARGELY SUPPLEMENTED, RECONFIRMED OR ELABORATED ON POINTS RAISED BY HONECKER. OUR GENERAL IMPRESSION IS THAT, NOW THAT GDR HAS ACHIEVED MOST OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES, REGIME IS BEGINNING AGAIN TO TIGHTEN ITS POLICIES. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 BERLIN 00931 311604 Z

2. DELIVERING THE TRADITIONAL POLITBURO REPORT TO OPENING OF NINTH PLENUM OF SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE, MAY 29, HONECKER MIXED HARD LINES WITH HONEYED WORDS TO PRESENT GDR POSITIONS ON MAJOR INTERNATIONAL AND

DOMESTIC ISSUES. ADDRESSING FOREIGN SECTOR FIRST, HONECKER CAREFULLY REITERATED GDR DEVOTION AND SUBORDINATION TO SOVIET UNION, PRAISED BREZHNEV'S PERSONAL CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIALIST SOLIDARITY AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE AND ACCLAIMED GDR'S SUCCESS IN OBTAINING INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION. ON LATTER POINT, HE CLAIMED THAT TALKS BETWEEN US AND GDR ON ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WERE NOW "IN PROGRESS" (BERLIN 916).

3. HONECKER DREW OUT IN PARTICULARLY SHARP RELIEF EAST GERMAN VIEWS ON BERLIN AND FRG. AT PAINS TO DISPEL ANY NOTIONS THAT WEST GERMAN CONTENTIONS RE BERLIN WILL PREVAIL IN WAKE OF BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN, HONECKER ADVANCED AN UNMISTAKABLY RIGID FORMULATION ON GDR INTERPRETATION OF APPLICABILITY OF QA. STATING THAT "WESTBERLIN-- THIS CAPITALISTIC ISLAND, THIS PECULIAR FORMATION IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GDR-- IS NOT A PART (BESTANDTEIL) OF ANY STATE," HE MAINTAINED THAT IT WAS ON THIS PREMISE THAT ALL ISSUES COVERED BY THE VARIOUS AGREEMENTS HAD BEEN SETTLED, INCLUDING THE PROBLEM OF WEST BERLIN'S EXTERNAL TREATIES AND PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL LIFE. HAVING SET FORTH THIS INTERPRETATION OF BERLIN ARRANGEMENTS, HE CITED PASSAGE FROM BREZHNEV COMMUNIQUE IN EAST BERLIN RE NEED FOR STRICT OBSERVATION OF THOSE ARRANGEMENTS AND ASSERTED THAT IT REPRESENTS BASIS FOR SETTLEMENT OF ALL PRACTICAL PROBLEMS ARISING IN CONNECTION WITH WEST BERLIN. HE THEN CLAIMED THAT GDR IMPLEMENTING AGREEMENT STRICTLY AND PUNCTUALLY AND CALLED ON THE OTHER SIDE TO DO LIKEWISE.

4. THE MOST LENGTHY SEGMENT OF HONECKER'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS REMARKS, HOWEVER, WAS DEVOTED TO A VIGOROUS REAFFIRMATION OF GDR'S POLICY OF ABGRENZUNG VIS- A- VIS FRG. POUNDING ON STANDARD THEME THAT CONFLICTING SOCIAL AND POLITICAL STRUCTURES OF GDR AND FRG CANNOT BE SPANNED BY EITHER LANGUAGE, HISTORY, OR CULTURE, HONECKER SAID THAT ONLY THROUGH FULL APPLICATION OF "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE" COULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 BERLIN 00931 311604 Z

GDR AND FRG FIND A BASIS FOR LIVING SIDE BY SIDE (NEBENEINANDER). IN ADDITION, EVIDENTLY TO MAKE CLEAR THAT DESPITE OSTPOLITIK THE FRG REMAINS AN ENEMY. HONECKER NOT ONLY STRESSED ANEW FRG CONTRIBUTIONS AND DEDICATION TO ATLANTIC ALLIANCE BUT ALSO RAISED SPECTRE OF FRG PARTICIPATION IN A COMMON WEST EUROPEAN ATOMIC STRIKE FORCE.

5. IN ELABORATING FURTHER ON PRINCIPLES OF ABGRENZUNG AND PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE, HONECKER ALSO NOTED THAT EAST GERMAN CITIZENRY COULD AT WILL TURN ON OR OFF FRG TELEVISION AND RADIO AND SEE HOW FRG ATTEMPTING INTERPRET GRT TO ITS ADVANTAGE. WHILE THIS REFERENCE COULD BE INTERPRETED AS UNPRECEDENTED

LICENSE

FOR TUNING IN FRG STATIONS, IT MORE LIKELY REPRESENTS PRAGMATIC ACCEPTANCE OF A SITUATION GDR AUTHORITIES CLEARLY CAN NO LONGER CONTROL, ON THE ONE HAND, AND WARNING ABOUT PERNICIOUS CHARACTER OF FRG MEDIA OUTPUT, ON THE OTHER.

6. ON MAY 29, AXEN SUPPLEMENTED HONECKER' S FOREIGN POLICY REMARKS WITH BROAD GLOBAL ANALYSIS TO EFFECT THAT ONLY RAPIDLY GROWING STRENGTH OF SOCIALIST CAMP UNDER SOVIET

LEADERSHIP, AND COMMENSURATE DECLINE IN POWER AND AUTHORITY OF USA AND WESTERN EUROPE, HAS MADE CURRENT ADVANCES IN INTERNATIONAL DETENTE POSSIBLE. FOREIGN MINISTER WINZER, ADDRESSING NEW INTERNATIONAL ROLE OF EAST GERMANY, AGAIN PLEDGED GDR TO WORK HAND IN HAND WITH SOVIET UNION IN PURSUIT OF WORLD PEACE AND SOCIALIST CAUSE. MOST IMMEDIATE FOREIGN POLICY TASKS LISTED BY WINZER WERE GREATER POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL INTEGRATION OF EASTERN EUROPE, FULL GDR MEMBERSHIP IN UN, AND MORE ACTIVE GDR EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF " JOIN POLICY OBJECTIVES OF SOCIALIST COMMUNITY" IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS, I. E. CSCE AND MBFR.

7. CLEARLY ONE OF MOST THORNY ISSUES ADDRESSED BY PLENUM WAS EAST GERMAN CULTURAL POLICY. HONECKER TACKLED PROBLEM GINGERLY, REMINDING GDR ARTISTS IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS OF THEIR OBLIGATION AND DUTY TO FURTHER SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES, BUT NOT ATTEMPTING TO DRAW NEW CULTURAL GUIDELINES. CON-
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 BERLIN 00931 311604 Z

TROVERSIAL PLAYWRIGHT ULRICH PLENZDORF, ALTHOUGH NOT MENTIONED BY NAME, CAME IN FOR HONECKER' S MOST CAUSTIC CRITICISM FOR HIS PORTRAYALS OF MAN' S ALIENATION FROM GDR SOCIETY. HAGER JUMPED ON SAME THEME FOLLOWING DAY, ATTACKING AS A " FUNDAMENTAL ERROR" THOSE WORKS OF ART THAT FAIL TO UNDERSTAND CLOSE AND BINDING RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL AND SOCIALIST SOCIETY. ALTHOUGH NEITHER HONECKER NOR HAGER THREATENED ANY DIRECT RETALIATION AGAINST ERRING ARTISTS, HONECKER DID CHARGE GDR ARTIST ORGANIZATIONS WITH INCREASED VIGILANCE AGAINST THOSE THAY MAY STRAY TOO FAR FROM SOCIALIST CULTURAL PROPRIETY.

8. DESPITE EARLIER RUMORS TO CONTRARY, NO PERSONNEL CHANGES WERE MADE IN POLITBURO. AT A LOWER LEVEL, OTTO SEPKE WAS RELIEVED OF HIS POSITION IN THE CENTRAL PARTY CONTROL COMMISSION (CPCC) FOR " REASONS OF HEALTH." HE WAS REPLACED BY HANNY GLAESER, WHILE DIETER SCHMIDT BECAME CC' S NEWEST CANDIDATE MEMBER.

9. ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF PLENUM WILL BE REPORTED SEPTTEL. KLEIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BERLIN00931
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730560/abqceedu.tel
Line Count: 165
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <12-Sep-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 980310
Subject: SED CENTRAL COMMITTEE PLENIUM
TAGS: PGOV, GE, PINT
To: STATE INFO BONN
LONDON
MOSCOW
PARIS
NATO
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

